

Mentees Create Cyberbullying Video in Twin Cities

During discussions with mentees at the Patrick Henry Beacon Boys & Girls Club, students brought to light the need for education surrounding cyberbullying. Bullying is a significant problem both nationally and internationally. Across studies, rates of students impacted by bullying range from 10 to 50 percent of children and youth (Cook et al. 2010; Atria et al 2007) and rates of students involved in cyberbullying range up to 30 percent (Mishna et al. 2012).

Though the current program does include education on bullying prevention, Patrick Henry Beacon Club staff wanted to go a step further. While brainstorming ways to better reach teens, the idea to create a video about cyberbullying was conceived. Thus, Patrick Henry Beacon formed a partnership with local company In Focus Media Arts, whose Executive Director, David Kang, previously worked to introduce media arts to students at a local high school.



Patrick Henry Beacon Club members enjoy watching the fruits of their labor.

As part of the Club's leadership program, eight mentees met weekly with mentors as well as with the Club's program coordinator, India Burton. Club members discussed ways in which social media can be used to disseminate public service announcements, then received training on video equipment and editing. Amy Yang, Program Director at the Patrick Henry Beacon Boys & Girls Club, was impressed with the level of commitment to the project the Club members displayed, "The teens were very interested in editing and creating the sounds effects included in the video," Yang says.

Club staff and Kang Vang, producer/mentor from In Focus, met with the Club's teen mentees to create a video that provides a youth voice about cyberbullying with an emphasis on reaching high school students. The group created the script, worked together to decide who would be responsible for each role in the project, and completed the video with guidance from their mentors. The video was sent to local schools this summer and was played during lunch during summer programming. Club members and staff plan to use the video in their local community while speaking to community groups and in school classrooms about bullying.

Resource

NetSmartz

NetSmartz is an interactive, educational program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) that provides age-appropriate resources to help teach children how to be safer on- and offline. The program is designed for children ages 5-17, parents and guardians, educators, and law enforcement. With resources such as videos, games, activity cards, and presentations, NetSmartz entertains while it educates.

<http://www.netsmartz.org/>